

Testimony in support of

**HB 7244 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION  
FOR VETERANS HAVING DISABILITY RATINGS VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING THURSDAY,  
MARCH 8, 2019 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
10:00 AM Room 1E**

Chairman Maroney, Chairwoman Borer, distinguished members of the Veteran's Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Eric Garcia and I am offering this written testimony in support of HB 7244.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and the opportunity to submit written testimony here today.

**Please keep this in mind through this hearing: The median household annual income in Connecticut is \$94,000. A 100% totally disabled veteran receives +/- \$30,000 a year from the VA.**

Let me start off by saying that I support and welcome any change to the current Veteran property tax exemptions in Connecticut that would increase said exemptions.

I believe it is important to note not every Veteran would qualify for the 100% totally disabled benefit. As the VA process is a quite rigorous one and the VA only deems veterans 100% disabled if they cannot work at all. I know this for two reasons one I worked for the VBA in Newington working on veteran's claims for 5 years and secondly I have friends who served in combat who are amputees who are not at 100%. What this means is that only the Veterans that are truly totally disabled are getting the 100% benefit. The majority of the Veterans that I know who are 100% are forced to leave the state as they cannot afford to live off of what the VA gives them in Connecticut. Many of them are saddened by this as they would love to have their kids attend the superior

public schools we have in our state but financial restrictions prevents this. I believe it to be a travesty when an individual who was willing to put it all on the line for the service of this great nation of ours can't afford to live in our state. We and by this I mean this committee should do more than honor our Veterans on Veterans Day. This bill should pass as our Military and Veterans are the backbone of who we are as a nation. With out our fighting forces we would not be able to have many of the freedoms and rights we take for granted.

Please support this bill as the Veterans of our state deserve the very best as they gave there best for our freedoms.

Thank you for allowing this submission. Respectfully,

**Eric Garcia**